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DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

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REPORT CLASS. C O N F I D E N T I A L--WNINTEL REPORT NO. [redacted] (b)(3)

COUNTRY Laos/USSR DATE DISTR. 26 January 1982

SUBJECT 1. Soviet-supported CW Laboratory in Vientiane
2. Accident Involving "Yellow Powder" [redacted] REFERENCES [redacted] (b)(3)

SOURCE [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

1. [redacted] witnessed uniformed Soviet chemical warfare (CW) advisors bringing containers about 12" x 12" x 8" into a small building in Vientiane that [redacted] was a simple one-room CW laboratory. [redacted] several Lao women, wearing only gloves and masks, worked in the lab, which was about 8' x 20' with a waist-high bench running down its length. [redacted] the containers that had been carried into the lab held three types of powder referred to as yellow, red or green poisons. After these powders were mixed with unspecified amounts of water and placed into metal tanks of unspecified dimensions, they were taken out of the building by the Soviet advisors. [redacted] the advisors put the metal tanks on GAZ-66 trucks and take them to an airfield, where they were then loaded onto small aircraft.

2. [redacted] the yellow powder was supposedly the most dangerous, said to be used in anti-infantry operations to kill. Death was reportedly due to constrictions and gagging of the throat with inability to breath. Loss of vision was also reported. No time for death after exposure was known [redacted]

3. [redacted] the other two powders were defoliants because no deaths had been associated with stories of their use (they supposedly caused foliage to turn black), and because [redacted] chemicals sprayed from small aircraft in other countries were defoliants.

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4. [redacted] an accident (location and date unknown) involving a group of Lao who attempted to smuggle a container of yellow powder into Thailand and were all killed when the container was dropped and ruptured.

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